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Letter dated 16 April 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 15 April 2002 from His Excellency Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammad A. **Abulhasan**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter 16 April 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you hereunder the views of the State of Kuwait on the agreements reached at the recent Arab Summit Conference.

1. As you know, at the fourteenth summit-level meeting of the Council of the League of Arab States, held in Beirut, Lebanon, on 27 and 28 March 2002, the Arab leaders agreed on a unified common position with regard to the situation between Kuwait and Iraq. This position was set forth in paragraph 21 of the final communiqué adopted by the meeting, which reads as follows:

> "21. The leaders welcome the assurances given by the Republic of Iraq that it will respect the independence, sovereignty and security of the State of Kuwait and vouch for its territorial integrity, thus avoiding any repetition of the events of 1990. They call for the adoption of policies to bring this about in a framework of good faith and relations of good-neighbourliness. In this context, the leaders invoke the importance of a halt to media campaigns and the issuance of negative statements in order to facilitate the creation of a positive climate that will restore the confidence of the two countries in adherence to the principles of good-neighbourliness and non-intervention in the internal affairs of others.
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> "The leaders call for respect for Iraq's independence, sovereignty, security, unity and territorial integrity.
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> "They further call for Iraq's cooperation in the search for a speedy and definitive solution to the issue of the Kuwaiti prisoners and hostages and in the return of property in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions as well as for Kuwait's cooperation in connection with the submissions made by Iraq through the International Committee of the Red Cross concerning missing Iraqis.
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> "The leaders welcome the resumption of the dialogue between Iraq and the United Nations, which has begun in a positive and constructive atmosphere, with a view to the full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.
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> "They urge the lifting of the sanctions imposed on Iraq and an end to the suffering of its fraternal people for the sake of stability and security in the region."

2. At the opening meeting of the Summit Conference, the chairman of the Iraqi delegation, Mr. Izzat Ibrahim Al-Duri, Vice-President of the Republic of Iraq, presented his country's statement. It contained an important section concerning the situation between Kuwait and Iraq, which reads as follows:

> "The challenges confronting the Arab nation at the present juncture require the maintenance of inter-Arab solidarity to ensure the preservation of supreme national interests and the security of the Arab States. We therefore affirm Iraq's commitment to the security of all the Arab States, including the State of Kuwait. Although we hope to achieve a formulation and an agreement for fraternal reconciliation and the restoration of normal relations between Iraq

and Kuwait, we should like to affirm that even if we have not come to such an agreement, which is what we should like, we nevertheless affirm our commitment to respect the sovereignty, independence, stability and security of the State of Kuwait within its internationally recognized boundaries. I was very sorry at what I heard in the address of our colleague Sabah Al-Ahmad. I hope that he does not deceive himself, and that no one else deceives himself, that we have taken this decision — and we take this position today just as we took it yesterday and shall always adhere to it — out of fear of the United States or the United Kingdom or any other foreign enemy. It was taken of Iraq's own free will, in accordance with the will of its leadership and in deference to what our Arab brothers hope and desire to see achieved between Iraq and Kuwait at this juncture."

3. The parts of the final communiqué of the Summit Conference relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait and this excerpt from the address of the chairman of the Iraqi delegation to the Summit Conference are to be regarded as a major building block. They constitute a step on the right path to placing security and stability in the Arabian Gulf region on a firm foundation and a beginning to the process of creating a climate of trust and of peaceful intentions.

4. The State of Kuwait has welcomed the positive atmosphere created by the adoption by the Arab Summit Conference of the section of its communiqué relating to the situation between Kuwait and Iraq, and our commitment to it has been announced officially in Kuwait itself.

5. The State of Kuwait is of the view that the significance of the section relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait must not be restricted solely to its positive impact on the creation of a climate of trust and confidence between the two countries. It must also be translated into specific and tangible steps in connection with specific issues that have long had an adverse impact on confidence-building measures. These issues are:

(a) The Kuwaiti and third-country prisoners and hostages. We are hopeful in this connection that Iraq will resume its participation, in a positive spirit, in the meetings of the Tripartite Commission entrusted with this issue under the relevant resolutions and that it will cooperate with Ambassador Yuli M. Vorontsov, the high-level Coordinator for the issues of prisoners and Kuwaiti property, with a view to achieving a positive outcome that will end a humanitarian calamity that has been of long standing.

(b) The return of all Kuwaiti property, and most especially the State archives. This would demonstrate that the Iraqi Government respects the history of the State of Kuwait, as it declared at the Beirut Summit it would undertake to do. The Iraqi Government can return such property through the Coordinator and the mechanism for which provision is made in the relevant Security Council resolutions.

(c) Suspension of the pursuit of any policies or the waging of any media campaigns that are prejudicial to the security, sovereignty and independence of the State of Kuwait. This would be a powerful indicator of good intentions towards Kuwait on the part of the Iraqi Government.

It is perhaps important for me to inform you that the celebrations that Iraq has become accustomed to holding on the "Day of the Great Call", marking the beginning of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, or "The Mother of All Battles", which

marks the beginning of military operations for the liberation of Kuwait, are not in our view merely Iraqi media events. They have come to represent a whole culture that is linked to Iraqi political, educational and promotional thought and that we expect Iraq to eliminate from its cultural, educational and promotional materials.

You doubtless believe that all members of the international community would agree with us, in Kuwait, that we must take advantage of the propitious opportunity presented by the pledge given by the Iraqi Government at the Beirut Summit to resolve the outstanding issues in accordance with the relevant resolutions. We must make of this pledge and the relevant Security Council resolutions on which it is based a framework in which to secure Iraq's cooperation in resolving the outstanding issues with Kuwait as quickly as possible.

In closing, I should like to convey to you my sincerest wish that we will be able to achieve the desired outcome in the dialogue you are to hold with the Iraqi Government and which we have welcomed in Kuwait, as did the leaders of the Arab States at their meeting in Beirut. We hope and expect that the dialogue will ultimately lead to the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, to the achievement of detente and to the establishment of security and stability for all the States of the region.

I must also take this opportunity to convey to you Kuwait's full support for all the efforts you are making both in this regard and in order to meet the requirements of your political and legal responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber **Al-Sabah**
First Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Foreign Affairs